

Statewide op-ed piece

- ❑ Image of MS is unlike anything anyone could have ever imagined
- ❑ Moving faster than anyone else into the 21st century
- ❑ Competing and leading in the global marketplace
- ❑ People working in highly-skilled, well-paying jobs
- ❑ Children in classrooms equipped with the technology to bring the world to their fingertips
- ❑ Throughout my sixteen year career serving our state, this image is one I have worked to help create
- ❑ (accomplishments as state senator)
 - MAEP
- ❑ (accomplishments as Lt. gov)
 - MPACT
- ❑ as Gov.
 - Economic
 - Advantage MS
 - Nissan to Canton but also expanded other businesses
 - Northrup Grumman, Howard Computers, Eurocopter
 - Protected existing industries across State
 - East MS/West AL Alliance
 - Ranked 10th in the nation for small business survival
 - Rural Impact Authority
 - Small Municipalities
 - Education
 - Test scores for students are up
 - Became gov, 122 schools listed as failing, now only 7
 - State Accountability system, 80% of schools are level 3 or higher
 - NCLB, 50% of schools met requirements compared to surrounding states: AL – 33%, DE – 43%, TN – 53%, and FL – 13%
 - Teacher pay, from 49th to 19th in the nation
 - Rewarding teachers who complete master teacher certification; has risen from 354 to 1480
 - First state in the nation to put computers in every classroom
 - 6th in the nation with national board certified teachers
 - Princeton review, 12th best testing system in the nation

- Changed the way we fund education; now we fund it first and fund it fully.
 - MS Affordable College Savings Program
- Health care
 - Over 50,000 more children have insurance. A healthy child goes to school ready to learn
- ❑ Together we have worked to build a Mississippi where our children have been given more opportunity than ever before
- ❑ The dream of MS is alive and well.
- ❑ We are moving forward and MS is still the best place in the country to live, work and raise a family.
- ❑ We have worked together to build a Mississippi that is America's state of promise.
- ❑ I would have never dreamed that a boy from Tocowa could grow up to be the governor of MS and to work on behalf of a state and her people that mean so much to me.
- ❑ Thank you for allowing this boy to live the American dream.